

Max W. Armand (1897-1948) is one of the Romanian masters of modern watercolour, in whose creative evolution technique was extensively and thoroughly involved, revealing that perfection that enabled the artist as a critic pointed out - "transcribe emotion and optic impression without hesitation or obvious effort" - in Brittany with sailboats and fishing boats anchored near the wharves, bridges stretching across the unsteady surface of the waters, the gulls of the Scie or of the Thames, channels guarded by sumptuous palaces reminding one of Venice's past glory - that is the story of his mature watercolours. His works, however, demonstrated a perfect mastery of the effects of watercolour. It is apparent an element, evolving with pulsating assurance towards broad synthesis, purified and transfigured.

Water, to which the painter attaches the greatest importance in the organization of his works, becomes the main component of the landscape, all the other elements being ordered in accordance with this hierarchy. It structures at the limit of the often high horizon and under its apparent indeterminacy one guesses the images of men which give an impulse to the ferment hidden in its depths. Above, a vast, slightly cloudy space governed by the same rules, corresponding to the inner rhythm deduced from the painter's synthetic vision.

The sky, the light, the air do not assume the appearance of atmospheric phenomena in the artist's work, but are adequately managed to provide the greatest possible effect of his vision, triggered by an ineffable thrill. Light, about which painter Nicușor Tonitza said that it was Armand's great art, participates in the architectural structuring of the painting. Sometimes with fine shadings of grey in Nordic landscapes, sometimes with warm ochre and brilliant pinks as in the oriental landscapes, light renders the touch or colour more delicate and more nuanced. The work's melody is also ensured by the artist's fine perception of the quality of light, not at all dramatic but calm, restful in its infinite cosmic dominion.

P. GEORGESCU



On the left: The Luxembourg Garden and Amsterdam Canal (top); Mihai and Victoria (middle); right) Nerva, Rome. Clydesdale and Flower (bottom left); Oriental Street (bottom right).

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The specialists in Romanian farm research institutions and stations develop new plant varieties and hybrids resistant to diseases and pests, adapted to the specific climate and soil conditions, which yield large, high-quality outputs and diversify and improve crop technologies. These are: *Agrotron*

targets set in accordance with the demands of a modern, intensive-type agriculture. On pages 6-7, two extensive reportages refer to the activity of the Institute of Research in Vegetable and Flower Growing, the Institute of Research in Fruit Farming at Vatra and the Bihorul Farm Research Station.

IMPROVING THE NEW ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MECHANISM

Among the numerous ideas set forth in President Nicolae Ceaușescu's address of the meeting of the Politburo, Executive Committee of the CC of the RCP at the end of April, highly important are those referring to the need for improving the financial and financial mechanism, based on the principles of worker self-management and self-administration.

Setting out from the available resources, scored in the activity of implementing the five-year

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IN LINE WITH QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY DEMANDS

NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU'S WORKING VISIT TO AGRICULTURAL UNITS IN OLT, TELEORMAN AND GIURGIU COUNTIES

The General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, Romania's President Nicolae Ceaușescu paid a working visit to industrial and farming units in the south of the country on Thursday, June 16.

The state and bale manutention enterprise of Olt, a unit representative for the Romanian raising stock industry, started with 8,000 workers, and the state farming unit of Olt, Olt county, as well as the producer cooperative farms of Purani, Teleorman county, and of Clăbucet, Giurgiu county, were seen round.

In the town of Olt, President Nicolae Ceaușescu analysed together with the managerial staff, workers and experts the way in which production activities are carried on, as well as aspects related to the technical equipment of the enterprise and the quality of the products turned out. During his meeting with members of the working people's council and of the party committee of the enterprise, President Nicolae Ceaușescu noted that the farm unit was well equipped, which provides the possibility of obtaining superior results. He instructed the managerial staff and experts to take adequate measures for the elimination of technical shorcomings, and negative states of affairs, for the efficient use of equipment and production capacities, and for a growing quality of products.

In the farming units visited, a survey was made of the stage of barley harvesting, of the measures taken for harvesting the crops in time and without losses, and for properly storing the grain.

The three farming units have already started harvesting barley, a crop which is expected to

yield larger outputs. For instance, at the Redea agricultural enterprise, where 100 ha are sown with barley, average production per hectare will be 6,300 kg. The wheat field also looks good, an output of about 8,100 kg per hectare being estimated. The situation of Olt county's agriculture was assessed to be generally good.

At the Purani producer co-

operative farm, average barley production is put at 8,000 kg per hectare. This crop covers 83 ha there.

Finally, at the Clăbucet producer cooperative farm, which

was awarded the title of Hero of the New Socialist Revolution for the results scored in barley growing last year, over 7,300 kg of barley per hectare are expected to be harvested.

On the left: The Luxembourg Garden and Amsterdam Canal (top); Mihai and Victoria (middle); right) Nerva, Rome. Clydesdale and Flower (bottom left); Oriental Street (bottom right).

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SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON THE THEME OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE MAIN PRODUCTION MEANS IN ROMANIA

A scientific symposium on the theme of Nicolae Ceaușescu's Decisive Contribution in Working Out and Implementing Our Party and State's Policy of Socialist Industrialization of the Country, of Strengthening and Developing Socialist Ownership, the Living Foundation of the Successful Building of Socialist and Communism in Romania was held in Bucharest on Saturday, June 15, on the anniversary of the day when, since the nationalization of the main production means in Romania.

The symposium, organized under the aegis of the National Council for Science and Education by the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania, was attended by full and alternate members of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, members of the CC of the RCP, members of the government, representatives of central institutions, mass and public organizations, party and trade activists, scientists, artists and men of letters, ex-servicemen.

Under the guidance of Nicolae Ceaușescu's thought and under an intensive growth and modernization rate is registered by the production forces distributed throughout the country in a rational and balanced manner, a process which, in the context of carrying out the wide-scope territorial planning programme,

lines of industrial enterprises, central and ministerial, research, scientific, military, working people from the Capital.

Opening the proceedings, Constantin Oțetescu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the RCP, showed, among other things, that the retrospective of the decades which elapsed since that event highlights ever more obviously the continuous and lasting character of the revolutionary process unfolded in Romania, rather than a superior level by the decisive and rapid pace achieved by the historic Ninth Party Congress, which opened the most brilliant period in the Romanian military existence.

The great achievements recorded in the years of socialism, especially after the Ninth RCP Congress, attest to the business of the road chosen by the people, the scientific content of the policy conducted by the Party which is credibly fulfilling the mission it has assumed of guiding the work of socialist construction with the people, for the people.

Delivery addresses were Mihai Mănescu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, Vice-President of the RCP, Vice-President of the State Council;

takes on new political, economic and social qualities and significances. The stepped-up development of the production forces is accompanied by continuous improvement in the socialist and production relationships, by the fulfilment of the principles of socialist ethics and equity, the development of the patriotic, revolutionary consciousness specific of the new socialist society.

Stefan Bîrlea, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, Chairman of the State Planning Committee; Eugeniu Dolărescu, minister secretary of state at the National Committee for Science and Technology; Buchu Petrescu, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government; Nevelin Iacob, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government; Stefan Andrei, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government. The papers referred to the conception of Nicolae Ceaușescu, Party General Secretary, Romanian's thought and work on the country's main industrial mechanism, based on work, management, self-education, self-education, self-financing; Romania's more active participation in the international division of labour, the exchange of material and spiritual assets among world states.

planning the national economy and carrying out its economic and socio-economic development strategy at present and in future until the year 2000; the improvement of socialist national economy, its assets of science and education as fundamental factors in building the multilaterally developed socialist society.

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The speech and ideas formulated in President Nicolae Ceaușescu's exposition delivered as part of the meeting of the Executive Political Committee approach recent international developments, making deep-going analyses and suggesting ways of action regarding the major questions facing mankind today. In scrupulously analysing the situation of the world, the persistence of the bourgeoisie of tension, the observance of the norms of international law, the new interstate principles is a primum condition as the sole guarantee of peace and security throughout the world.

Falling in this line is the entire international policy and activity of the Romanian party and state. The international developments fully validate the justice of the principled orientation and stand underlying the policy.

As is known, the Romanian Communist Party, socialist Romania attach special importance to the expansion of friendship and collaboration with all socialist countries, a programme orientation defining the main line of foreign policy. Far's effort to the exemplary, socialist conscience with which the RCP and Romania have acted in this sense along the years, Romania's own example of expanding its relations with all socialist countries — the Soviet Union and the other European socialist states, People's China and the other Asian socialist states, the People's Republic of Cuba — ranks as a major contribution to the cause of friendship and unity between the socialist countries in the aggregate.

The exposition highlights the necessity of stepping up the efforts of all the advanced forces for the implementation of disarmament, first of all, of nuclear disarmament, for the definitive elimination of nuclear weapons, for conventional disarmament and the reduction of military spending, for the enhancement of the people's right to life in a free and independent existence — the fundamental problem of our time.

ROMANIA IN THE WORLD • ROMANIA IN THE WORLD

FRUITFUL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Romania plays an increasingly more active part in the world economy, expanding broad commercial and economic cooperation relationships with approximately 150 states on all continents. In fact the activity of foreign trade and economic cooperation represents an officially insatiable demand for material development, a factor of basic bearing to account its natural resources and manpower, contributing since 20 percent to the increase in the country's national income.

Thanks to its constantly developed and upgraded technical-economic potential, Romania has been able to make an increasingly noteworthy appearance in the arena of world economic cooperation, in the most varied and advanced forms. Presently, it maintains diplomatic relations with almost all its trading partners, thus actively accounting for approximately one fourth of the country's exports, thus ensuring more than one fifth of the country's needs of raw materials. As a matter of fact, over the last two decades Romania has concluded more than 1,000 documents (accords, contracts, etc.) expanding and deepening economic and technical-scientific cooperation in various fields of activity.

Thousands of Romanian specialists are presently carrying on their activity in scores of countries, especially in developing countries, where they combine and important actions and designs projects of industrial cooperation and production. At the same time, thousands of young people from scores of

TURKEY UNITS IN THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

Through the intermediary of Uzexportimpex, Romania offers foreign partners a wide range of services in the cement industry field, the building of factory facilities included, benefiting by modern technological lines and having capacities between 800 and 4,000 tons of cement per day, fitted with all the installations and technological equipment, means of control, apparatus, automation systems and other facilities required.

Since 1959 (when Romanian specialists built the first oil refinery in the Indian locality of Gauhati, boasting an annual processing capacity of 700,000 tons) Romania has raised more than 130 economic projects through cooperation, including oil refineries in Iran, Pakistan, Syria, Jordan and Turkey; oil-separating works and chemical units for partners in India, Iran, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Guinea, Congo, Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Albania, Bulgaria and the RPR of Korea; various smelting, smelting and metallurgical units for partners in Iran, Egypt, China, the USA, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, the DPR of Korea; various iron and steel enterprises, iron mill, steel works, ore smelting plants, etc. in Iran, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the DPR of Korea and in other countries. In cement factories in Syria, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, Romania, China, Iraq and Egypt, ports and oilfields in Morocco, Iran and Senegal; wood pro-

cessing plants in Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Sri Lanka, many other projects in the field of energy, of the oil-refining industry, transport, telecommunications, agriculture, the light industry and the food industry. For all these projects entered together with the partners themselves, Romania applies its talents with studies, designs, technical installations, patents and know-how, other engineering and technical services, ensuring the necessary technical assistance for the erection, commissioning and exploitation of the production units.

The Romanian firm, which specializes in supplying surveys and designs, growing technical assistance in construction and assembly, and delivering technologies, equipment and know-how in the power and hydro-technical areas, including the turnkey delivery of projects in the power-generation sector, is a remarkable performance if one takes into account the fact that the construction of such a factory generally last three years. These factories are equipped with state-of-the-art

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THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST GARDEN

Villages where gardening is a traditional occupation can be found south of Bucharest. Producers with fresh fruits and vegetables go from here to market places in the Capital and other towns in the country. Especially Vidra gardeners are well known for their skill. It is not by chance that the Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Horticulture was founded

HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE VARIETIES

A continuous struggle is carried out at Vidra in order to increase the plants' productive potential. A lot of perseverance is hidden in the success of homologating new varieties. Years of research bring to light, out of millions of seeds, those seeds carrying the traits of a new plant or, as the specialty language puts it, the combination

there in 1967. The gardening experience of the inhabitants of the village on the Sabar river banks was useful as a starting point in the competition for bigger crops. Even the land used by generations of vegetable growers ensured the application of adequate technologies from the very beginning. Thus, more than two decades ago, Vidra became the country's first big garden.

cultivation. One of them is the Ulpresa mixed variety for industrialization and consumption, with a production of 80 tons per hectare. Another variety Romeo 553 created only for industrialization with the latest gene resistance in winter, the okra, nelson and beans varieties round off the picture of Romanian vegetable growers' achievements.

SOWING MACHINE WITH OSCILLATING BAR

The specialists of the central station for soil erosion control research of Petrești-Vidra developed a sowing machine to be used with a slurry of live per cent which, thanks to an oscillating bar, observes the sowing depths recommended by agronomists. The sowing machine is of the "carried by a tractor" type, being able to sown conventionally, sowing at a depth of 4-8 cm and distribute fertilizer to a depth of 8-15 cm. The new machine can be adjusted to the existing assemblies of farming machines, ensuring better crops especially for weeding growths.

A PERMANENT DIALOGUE

Until the end of this decade Romania's vegetable production is expected to reach 12 million tons. Directly committing itself to this goal, the Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Horticulture has set out to create new genotypes by genetic

engineering methods, to fully the study of genetic, physiological and biochemical mechanisms which determine the plant's quantitative and qualitative characteristics and to improve the methods of developing vegetable varieties and hybrids. The eight programmes work out by species and groups of species aim to create new high productive varieties and hybrids, to increase their resistance to diseases, their quality and the better utilization of the soil stored in early, successive, self-sustaining crops, to optimize fertilization, to reduce fuel consumption. To order to achieve these targets, the institute coordinates a permanent dialogue both with similar research institutes in the world and with vegetable growers in this country. V. Pop, scientific director of the institute, offered us a few comments on this exchange of experience: "Annually, we have exchanges of publications resembling one hundred similar research institutes. In the second half of the year, there is an exchange of information on research already completed or just preliminary studies which are extremely useful because they will compare our performances with those obtained by countries boasting better traditions in growing vegetables. At the same time, we have our research programmes with similar institutes in the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and also close relationships with French, Italian and Dutch vegetable nations.

In order to keep vegetable growers in our country in touch with the latest gains in the field, we publish many works, popularizations which we provide free of charge. Lists of new breeds, folders and books present new disease and pest control methods, seedling techniques, addressing all vegetable growers in Romania.

The firm of Mogoșoaia

of valuable characteristics into the same genotype. In the last years, variety series were homologated for almost all vegetables at the Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Horticulture. They were produced in specially catalogs but did not stop at that stage. In a relatively short period, they were generalized in production. Valuable varieties were obtained for tomatoes, plants occupying the biggest area meant for vegetable

of 80 tons per hectare. The Laura variety, having a productive potential of 110 tons per hectare, has been created to be consumed fresh. The Cozun, Aronca, Muncule and Mihaiola varieties of green beans, another plant growing on large areas have been generalized in recent years. They are characterized by a thick, soft pulp and pleasant taste. Particularly valuable are the new capsicum varieties. The Titan

variety, rich in sugar, resistant, whose fruits can weigh as much as 300 grams each, has a productive potential of more than 40 tons per hectare. The new varieties having great genetic resistance in winter, the okra, nelson and beans varieties round off the picture of Romanian vegetable growers' achievements.

FOR A CONSTANT BIOLOGICAL VALUE

A healthy fruit is a true victory. For this victory to be repeated with millions of fruits, a vast activity is carried on at the Vidra Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Horticulture to maintain the biological value and productive capacity of these varieties. This is in fact the task that holds the main place in the institute's activity. This large garden supplies seeds to all the country's vegetable growers. The head of the seed-producing laboratory, engineer Cornel Popescu, synthesized his concerns for us: "Every year, the Vidra Institute carefully and responsibly prepares the seeds for the future crops. Recently, new conservative selection schemes have been worked out based on the utilization of so-

called 'germinal' varieties. The seeds of these varieties are used to maintain the duration of their 'germinal' qualities. The area of the institute's purified seeds is an important volume of 100,000 tons.

Image from the laboratories and experimental plots of the research institute of Vidra. Page 4: centre: a laboratory of the Mogoșoaia farm specialized in mushroom growing.



A FASCINATING UNIVERSE

In the opulence of every fall one can find the work and diligence of vegetable growers, of all those working in this field. Sowing and transplanting, harvesting and selling, furnishing goods to consumers are stages of work reflected in the quantities of vegetables marketed. Less is known about what is actually done during each of these stages to record a truly abundant crop. An excursion into the laboratories of the Institute of Research into Vegetable- and Flower-growing opened for us the gates to a fascinating universe.

At the laboratory of agro-chemistry, biochemistry and physiology researcher Viorel Letatius supplied us with a few,

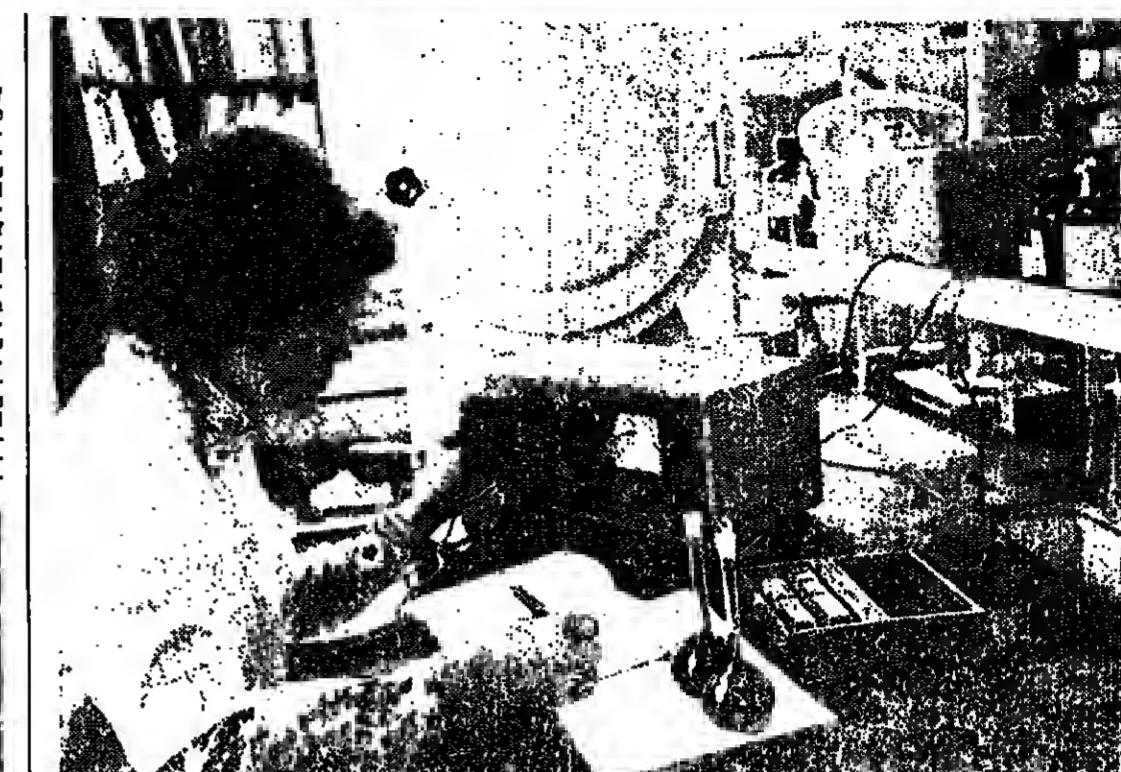


extremely interesting data. Orange, interbreeding relationships can be found in the results of this laboratory. Proposing themselves to work out mathematical models calculating doses of fodder and irrigation means, researchers will soon be able to offer vegetable growers a precise guide in the ratio of growth and development of plants depending on the availability of water and the nourishing elements existing in soil. As part of the collaboration with the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology specialists plan to develop a model simulating plant growing on the computer. The model will help forecast the evolution of culture in a certain ecosystem. Naturally, the measures required in the event of a climate accident, plant protection against major

pests is another vast field of

research in which the Institute

specialists can display remarkable achievements. An important step in this direction was made by approaching biological control of pests. The observation of a technology of launching a wasp called *Argyresthia evanescens*, bio-antifungal growth and blocking of two species of insects — *coccinella septempunctata* and *adonia virens* — are terrific directions of action of the institute's entomologists. Studies for the integrated control of pathogens, pests and weeds aim at reducing the number of chemical treatments and diminishing the pollution of environment.



HIGH PERFORMANCE TREE GROWING

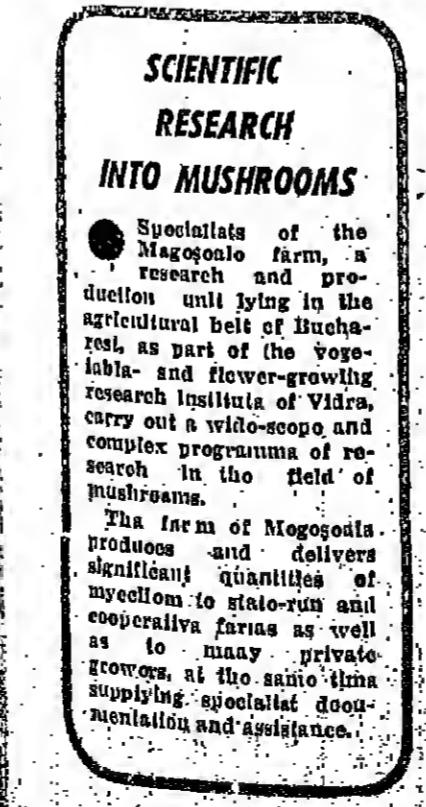
A true campaign in tree growing is being conducted in many countries of the world at present for ensuring the right availability of the existing tree varieties for developing new varieties boasting special properties. Genetics, physiology, pathology, biophysics, biochemistry are intensely collaborating in shaping the desired biological material. In this context, the Romanian multidisciplinary collective of specialists in translating into fruit trees, breeds from the native fruit tree breeding programme intensifying the tree patrimony in laboratories, with test tubes and microscopes, and on the research plots, and looking for remedies for fruits with optimum natural properties. One of these breeders, researcher, producer and amplifier of valuable tree material is the fruit growing research and production station at Băneasa near Bucharest.

During all the researches about 80 ha of tree plantations, the station specializes in apricot and peach because of the pedicellate fruits favourable to these two thermophilic species offered by the area. The sun- and heat-loving apricot and peach let themselves be explored here, in exchange of the researches offering yielding rich fruit with valuable properties. Five apricot varieties and five peach ones have been homologated at Băneasa, their creators being celebrated researchers Viorel Balan and Antonia Iavagni. The two workmates and colleagues seem to be present only women researchers specializing in apricot and peach genetics and improvement in Europe. The exceptional qualities of the new apricot and peach varieties were acknowledged on the occasion of the two researchers' participation in the international symposium on apricot and peach growing in Novara, 1981, Vienna, 1983, and Budapest, 1985, and in the international horticultural exhibition in Erfurt.

BULINA MIHAESCU ■

Native to Cedar, Asia, the

January-March 1987 period



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO MUSHROOMS

Specialists of the Mogoșoaia farm, a research and production unit lying in the agricultural belt of Bucharest, as part of the vegetable- and flower-growing research institute of Vidra, carry out a wide-scope and complex programme of research in the field of mushrooms.

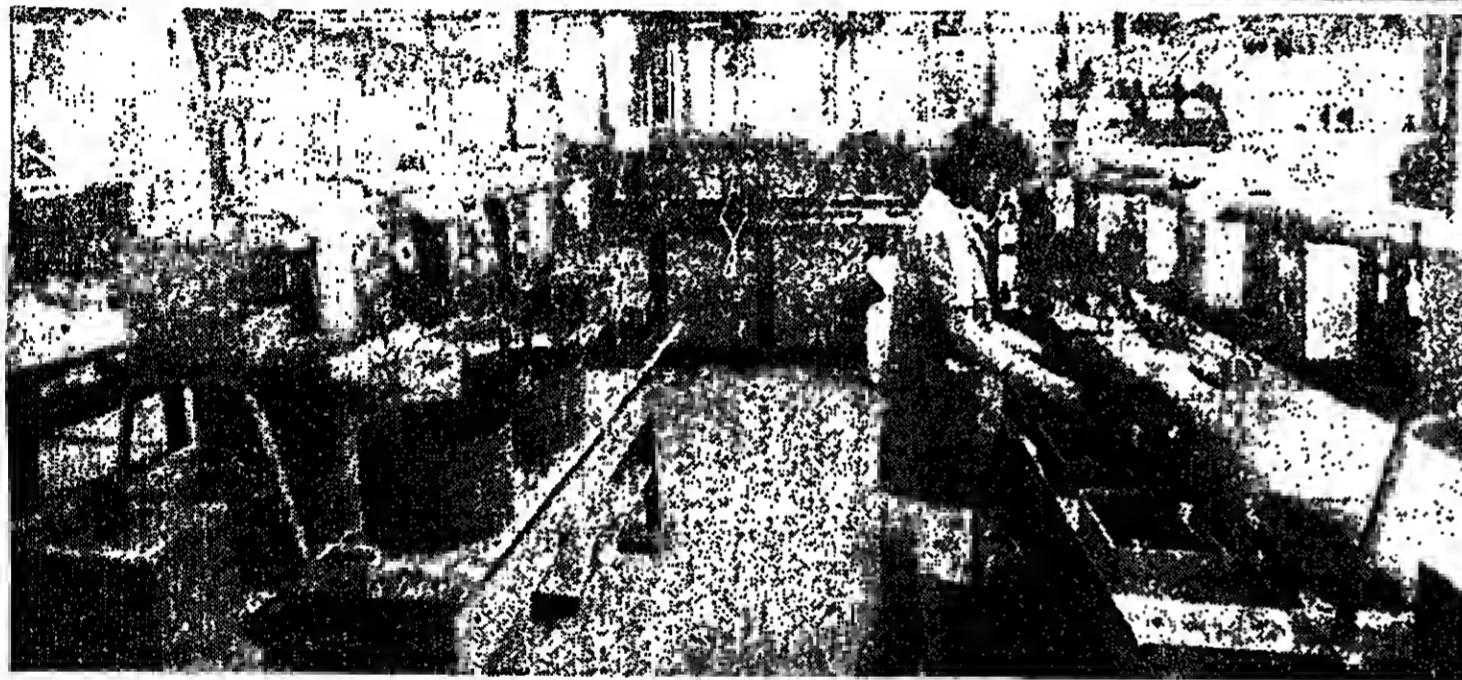
The firm of Mogoșoaia produces significant quantities of mushrooms to state-run and cooperative farms as well as to many private growers, at the same time supplying special documentation and assistance.

THE FINE MECHANICS ENTERPRISE



The Fine Mechanics Enterprise of Bucharest, one of the big producers of measuring and gauging fixtures in Romania, offers high-accuracy devices for the measuring of external, internal, circular and flat dimensions, gear, surfaces and angles. Its manufacturing programme includes dial gages and micrometer calipers with dial indicator, direct-reading and comparison measures.

for bore-holes, passmeters and level micrometers, thickness measuring devices, gear pitch error and thickness measuring fixtures, protractors and supports and accessories for these devices. Length measuring devices meet world quality standards and can compete with similar products made by traditional firms.



MEASURING AND CONTROL INSTRUMENTS

MEASURING AND DIMENSIONAL CONTROL INSTRUMENTS

- dial indicators
- bore checking and control instruments
- comparator instruments
- gear measuring instruments
- angle measuring instruments and apparatus
- surface measuring instruments
- supports and accessories for measuring instruments

APPARATUS FOR ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CONTROL BASED ON MODERN PRINCIPLES

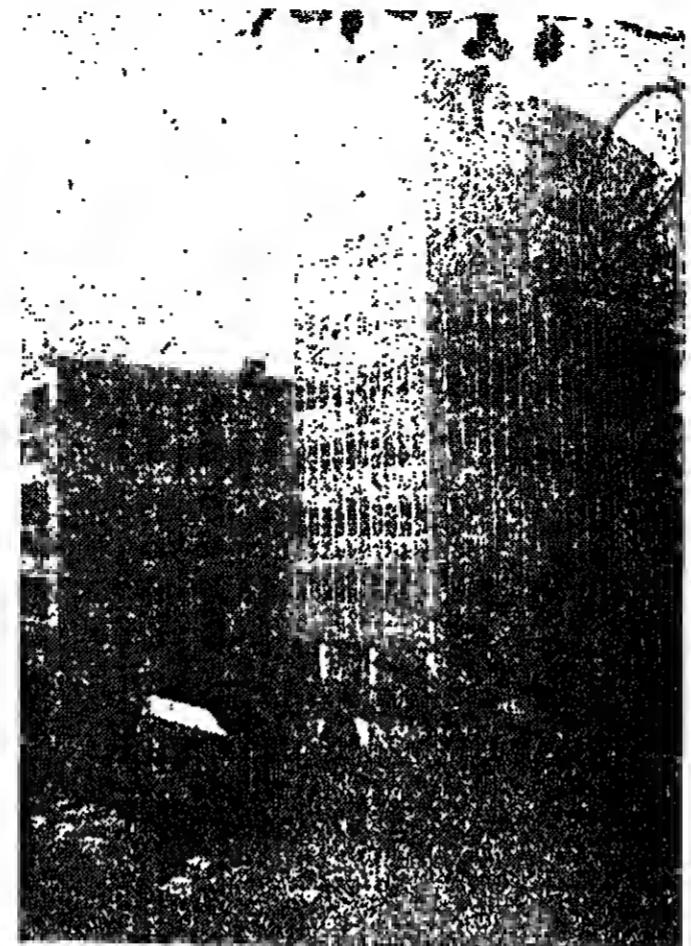
- active control instruments for universal and surface grinding machines
- passive control instruments with electric contact and pneumatic transducers
- electronic apparatus for rugosity control



The range of products includes 530 distinct families involving some 22,000 standard sizes. Of them, 80 families of products have been assimilated of late, the share of the new and redesigned products being of over 28 per cent.

In order to achieve its programme, the Fine Mechanics Enterprise adopted and improved the latest technologies specific to each family of products. One of the many possible examples are the diamond wheels with galvanic bond for processing a wide range of materials. Starting from the technology bought from the Wielor company of West Germany, the Fine Mechanics Enterprise has achieved almost twice as many families of diamond wheels than the license initially contained. Among its performances we could mention the wheels for the electronic industry used for cutting integrated circuits, transistors and thyristor plates. The width of the cut is only 0.02 mm, which substantially reduces the waste of expensive materials resulting from cutting. We could also mention the diamond wheels with galvanic bond used for cutting synthetic resins, the wheels for processing sintered metal carbides, etc.

The result of the Fine Mechanics Industrial Ondraș's creative efforts is the active control devices used directly on machine tools. Intelligent devices equipped with electronic scales and testers, they ac-



REMEMBER THE



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IMF is the mark you can see on all products turned out by Intreprinderea de Mecanică Fină (The Fine Mechanics Enterprise) in Bucharest. The fabrication programme of this enterprise which is one of the most modern in Europe includes the following groups of products:

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- apparatus for the control of thermotechnical magnitudes
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- tools, de-

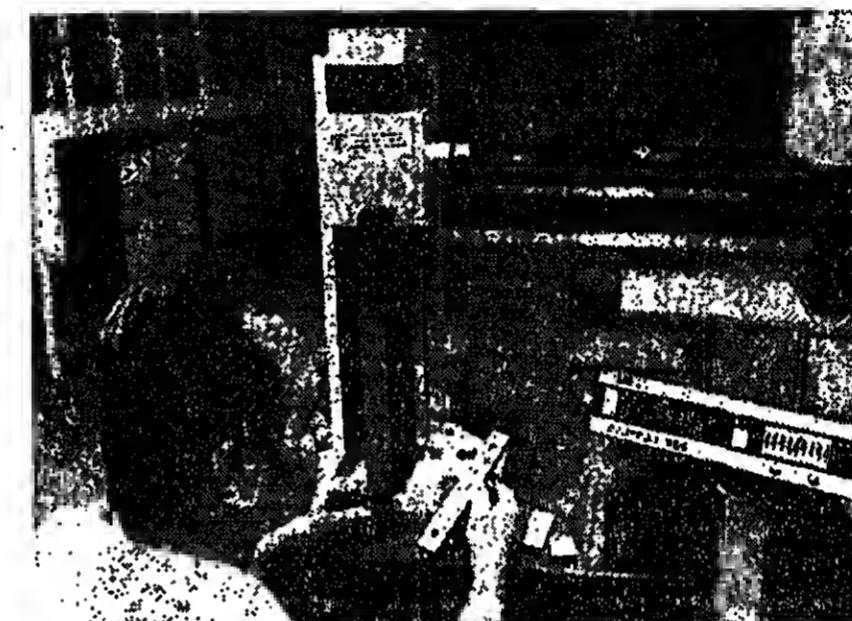
vices and matrices

● products of sintered metal

carbides

and installations, and a high quality to your products.

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- diamond tools for processing grinding stones
- diamond wheels with metal and organic bonds for processing hard and extra-hard materials
- metal-bonded diamond tools for special processing
- diamond drawing dies
- diamond postes



ON THIS PAGE:

- vertical micrometer with electronic counter
- electronic speedographs for locomotives
- impulse electronic counter for cutting machines
- projector microscope checks

ON THE ADJOINING PAGE:

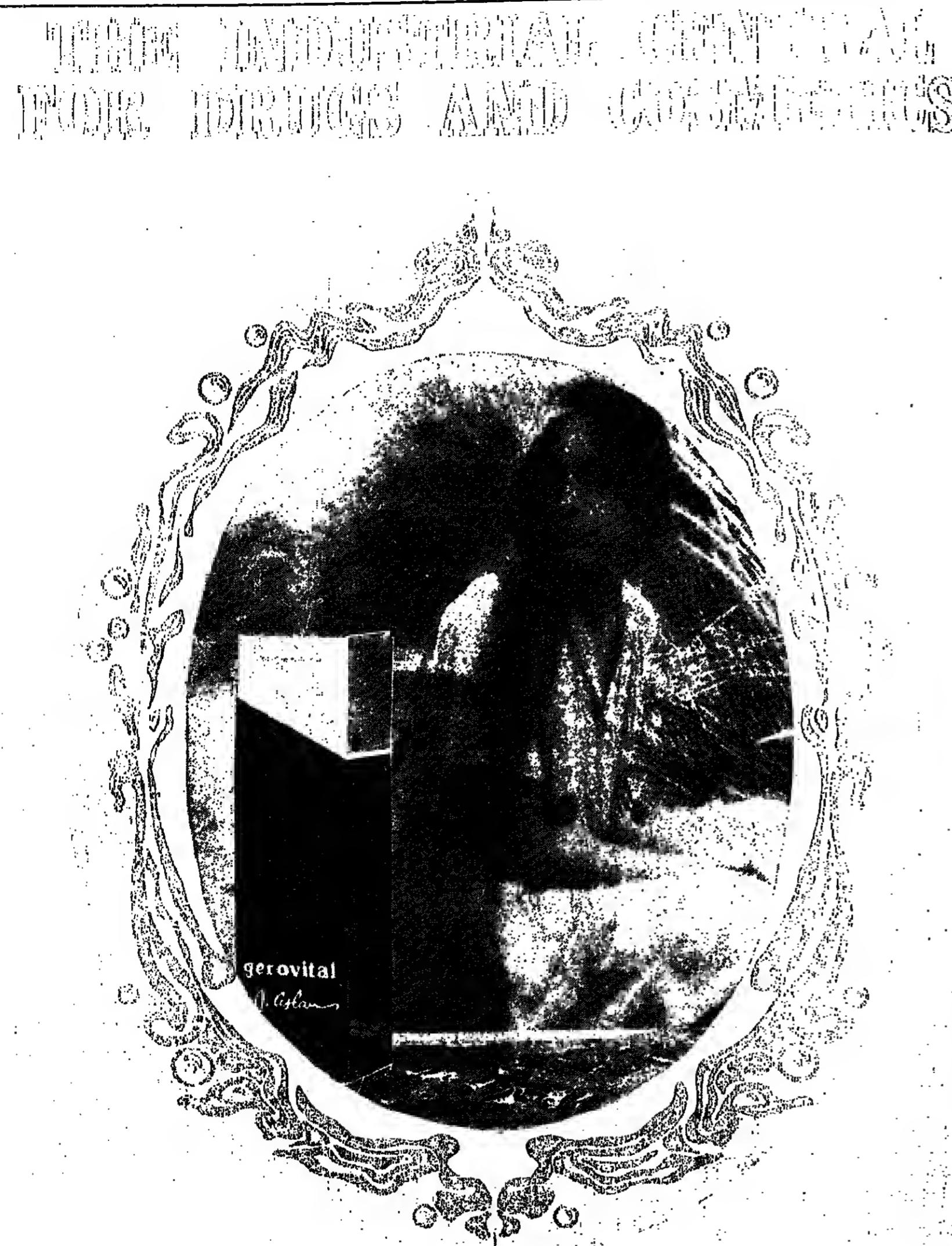
- View from the galvanic workshop of the diamond tools section
- View from the length measuring and control apparatuses section

MANUFACTURER:
THE FINE MECHANICS
ENTERPRISE

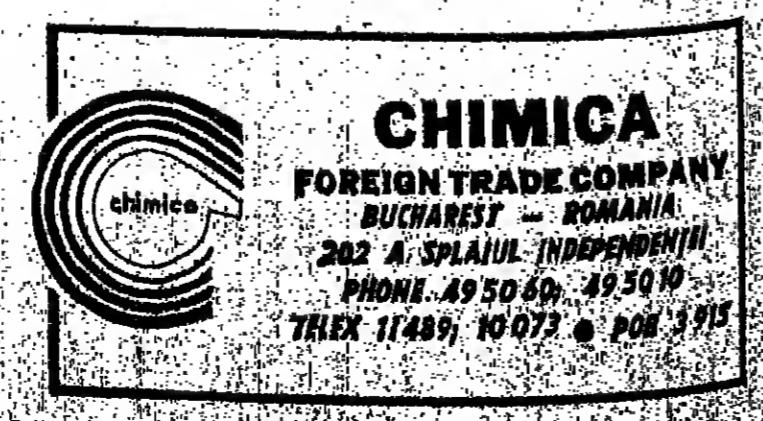
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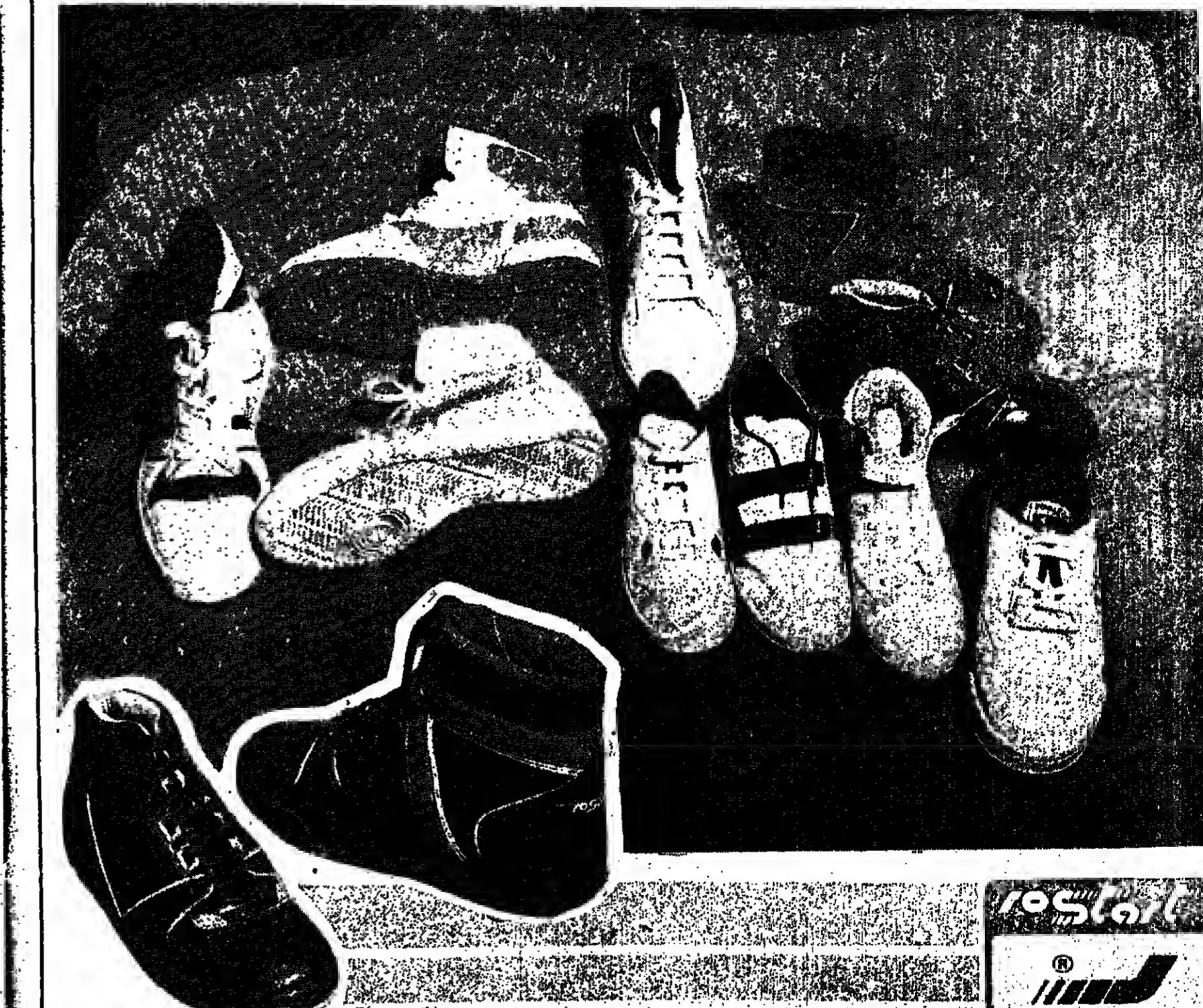
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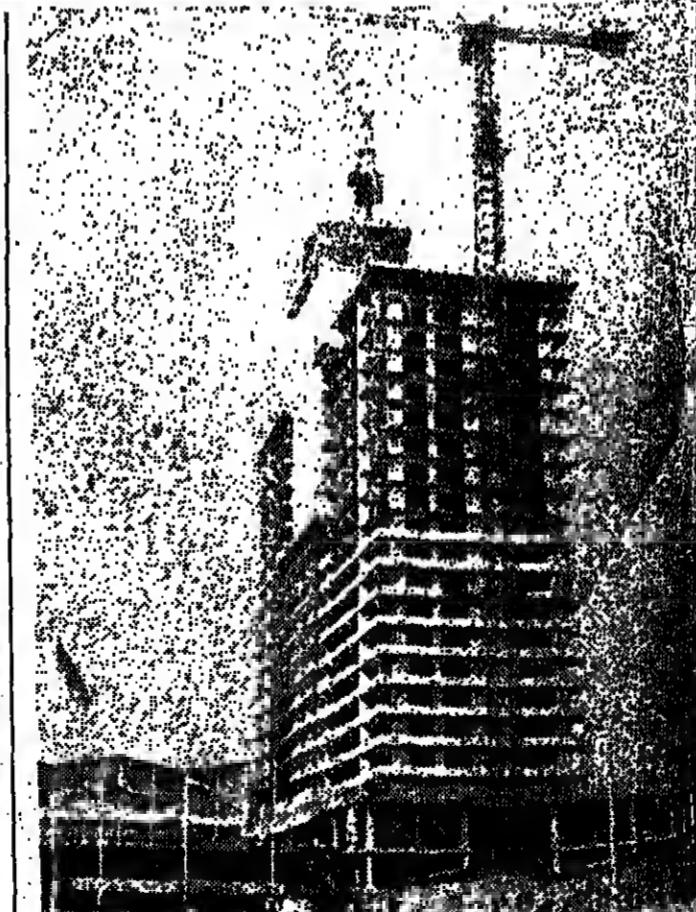
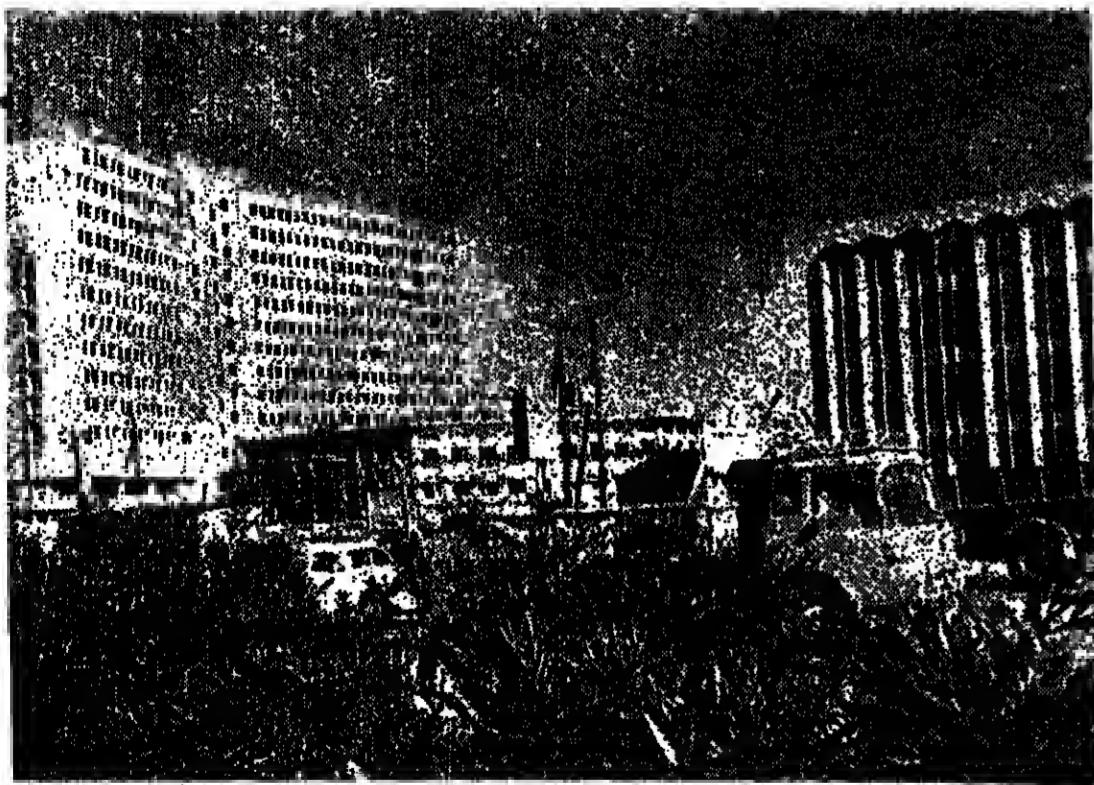
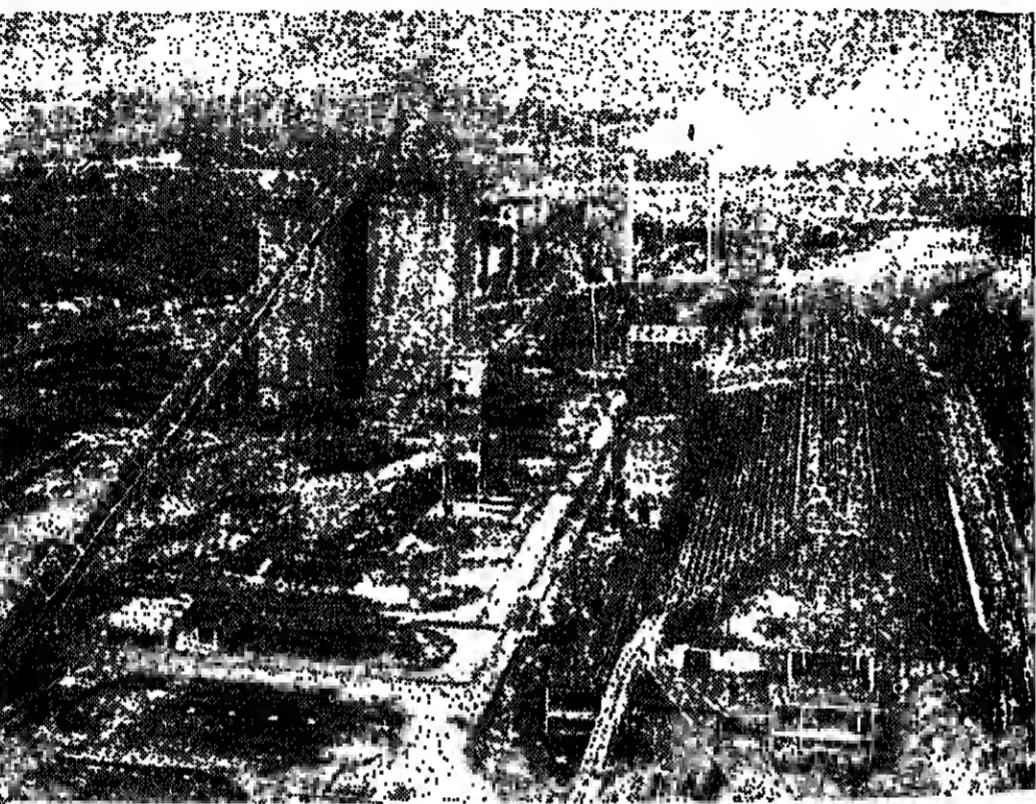
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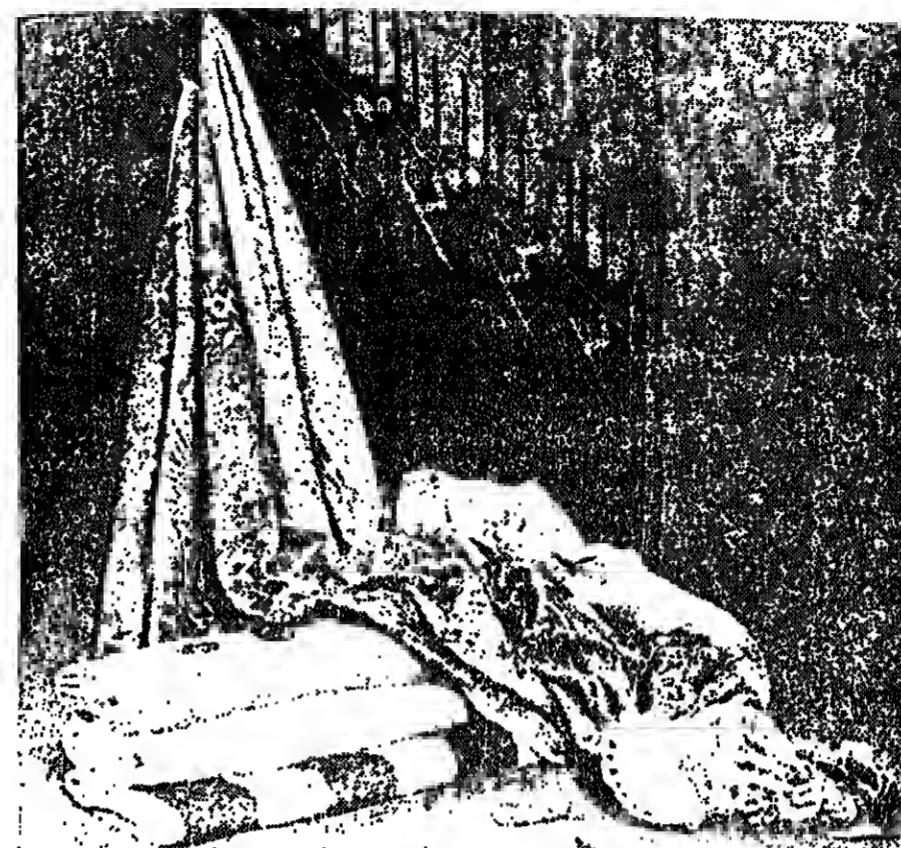
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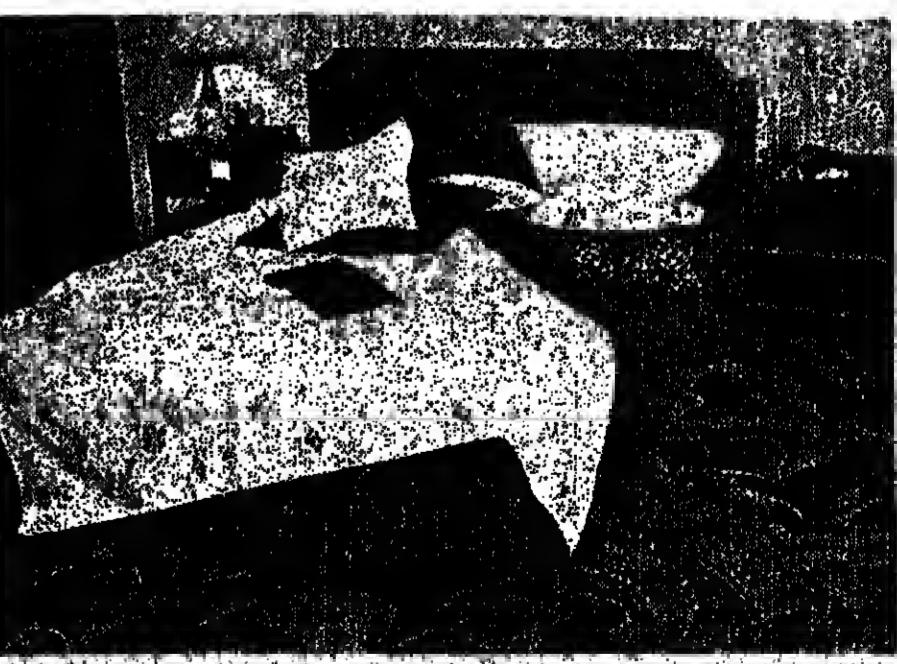
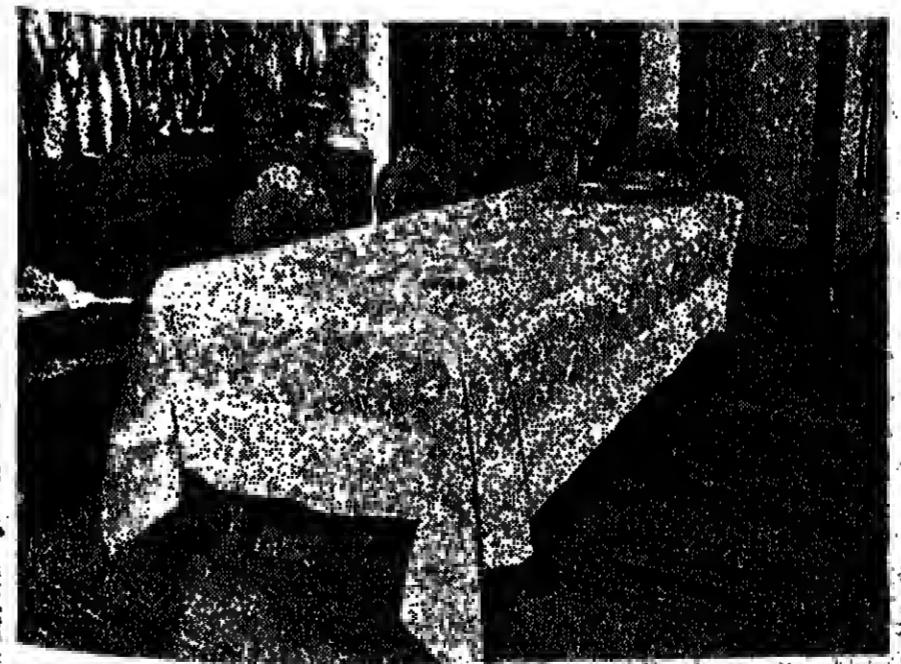


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COMPUTER SIMULATES VISION AND BREATH

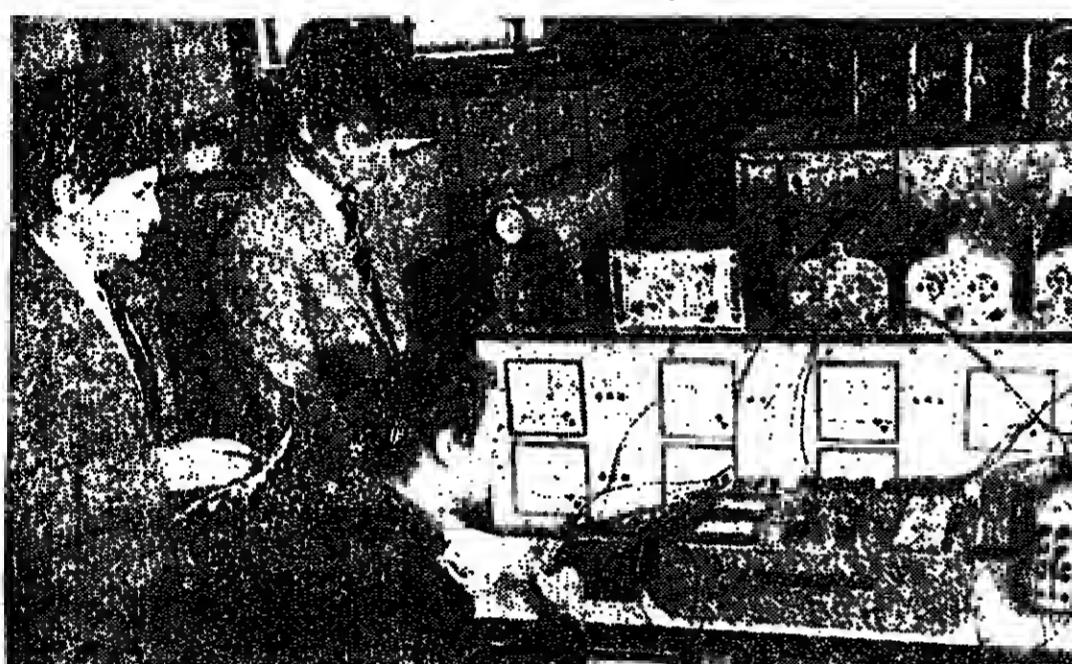
For several years now, a team of experts of the Autonomous Faculty in Bucharest, headed by professor Ion Dumitru, has been working on the study of the visual and breathing functions.

As early as 1973, the team together with ophthalmologist Dr. Marica Dumitru, head of the ophthalmological clinic of the Colentina hospital, has approached the question of cybometric modelling of the visual system, with a view to identifying the real behaviour of this complex and multifunctional system. Starting from the anatomical-physiological qualitative characterization, Dr. Marica Dumitru has identified the afferent subsystems of the pupillary section control, the control of the eye globe movement and of the acquisition and processing of the information by the retina and nervous system. The anatomic-physiological characterization and simulation on the computer of these subsystems and of the whole system have made it possible to grasp the mechanism of sight, with application to the development of technological systems of artificial sight, highly important to the insuring of high-performance robots and of control and shape-recognition systems.

A second line of action of the team, concerning the achievement of performing systems for the automated control of breathing, respiration and intensive therapy, has materialized following the collaboration with professor George Litorek, head of the intensive care section of the Fătuști hospital.

On the basis of the knowledge accumulated, the team of experts has started building on the anatomical-physiological processes, mathematical models have been built for the quantitative characterization of the breathing function. Taking into account the variation of the mathematical model obtained according to the individual anatomic-functional characteristics of the patient's eye and muscles, the researchers have undertaken to build systems adjustable to individual cases for the automated control of breathing.

ROXANA MANOLESCU ■



HIGHER CAPITALIZATION OF RAW MATERIALS

Romanian experts have developed economically profitable technologies of extracting useful substances from low-grade ores, especially zirconium, titanium, manganese, niobium, gallium, scandium, yttrium, neptunium and other acids, bio-tech batteries such as intercalation batteries, nuclear power and the aerospace industry. Recently conducted studies hold out the possibility to capitalize on potassium ore deposits. The technological method worked allows of obtaining several substances such as potassium chloride, medium chloride, magnesium oxide, potassium, etc. from ores having barely a few per cent of useful substance. Another success is the original technology of turning to cement the rare earths in

the alluvium sands having a poor content of useful elements. This technology makes it possible to extract sizable amounts of titanium and zirconium. On the basis of these raw materials, teams made up of scientists and industry practitioners have developed highly valuable thin-film products: alloys, pipes, salts, etc. Other multidisciplinary researchers have made use of the floatation of mineralizing technologies for vacuum concentration materials such as cement enriched with thermopower station ashes.

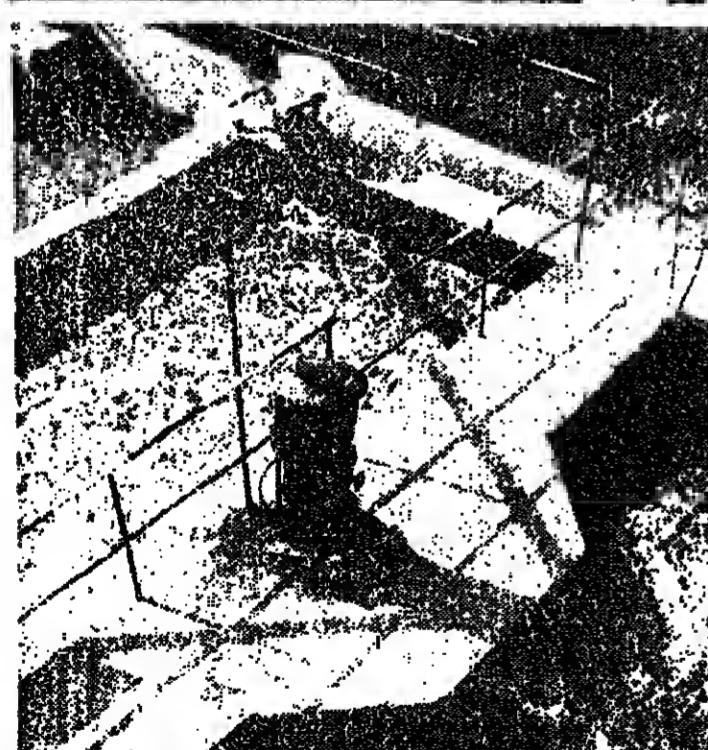
Currently under way are researches pursuing the collecting and industrial use of waste substances from industry, power generation, etc. New, efficient technological solutions have been

applied for the extracting of useful substances from the industrial waste of the Bragadiru electric power plant, the non-ferrous metallurgical enterprise of Zalău, Coșna, Miercurea Ciuc, etc.

Useful micro-elements have also been extracted through original methods from thermal waters, city waste water, rain-sealing ponds and living deposits.

LUDOVIC ROMAN ■

Top and centre: The test of the raw materials and waste substances from industry. Left: Water treatment plant; below: Bala black mining research centre.

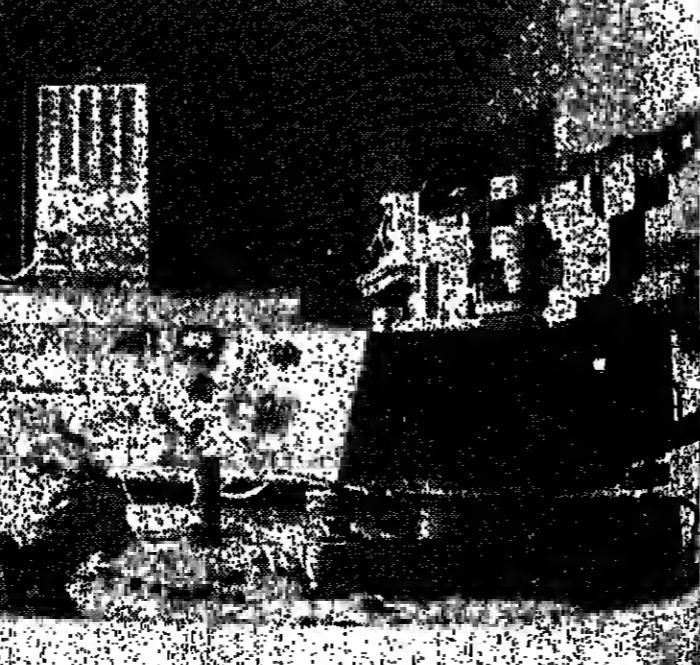


BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES

Romanian researchers in the realm of biochemistry have been systematically studying over 200 species of plants in the spontaneous and cultivated flora with a view to enlarging the raw material base for the pharmaceutical industry. Special attention has been paid to boxthorn, a shrub containing vitamins, essential oils, naphthols, etc. The boxthorn extracts have proved both experimentally and clinically useful in the treatment of ulcers, in ophthalmological, hepatic, renal, arterial, tracheal, etc. The polyphenol substances, in boxthorn and other plants, have been utilized in production.

Another plant too, Adonis, has proved to be rich in carotenoid substances. The Romanian experts are studying this plant together with the biochemists of Illinois, Island University of the USA. They pursue to work out intensive growing technologies and the plant's genetic modification. It seems Adonis, a plant of great economic value.

The Institute of Agricultural Research of Cluj-Napoca studied the possibility of increasing the content of substances of medical interest in ordinary plants such as maize, wheat, soy, etc. Obtained were lines and hybrids of maize which contain increased quantities of prothiamine, carboxylic



AN ANTI-POLLUTION STUDY

Industrial Waste Water Treatment is the title of a study recently put out by the Technical Publishing House under the supervision of engineer Mircea Negulescu, DSc. The first volume discusses the quality conditions required from treatment plants, the modern deputing processes applied in various sectors: mining, farms, food industry, organic chemical industry, textile industry, leather industry, etc. Descriptions are made of industrial waste water purifying plants and of technological processes applied. There are more than 4,000 industrial treatment plants and many other installations purifying waste water. The book also presents the installations and methods of extracting various useful substances from industrial waste water, and the techniques of using technological water.

A second line of action of the team, concerning the achievement of performing systems for the automated control of breathing, respiration and intensive therapy, has materialized following the collaboration with professor George Litorek, head of the intensive care section of the Fătuști hospital.

ROXANA MANOLESCU ■

THE HEALTHY MAN

MAN'S OXYGENATION

The International Federation defines sports medicine as a clinic of the healthy man, a branch of preventive medicine which studies with its own means the physical exercise associated with environmental factors, i.e. the effect of constricting to the correct function of certain skills and the harmonious development of the human being (the formative function), to the prevention of diseases and traumas, as well as of efforts of any kind, including those imposed by the professional activity (the prophylactic function), to the maintenance of a morpho-functional balance with middle-aged people and the recovery after work (the maintenance and restorative function), to the treatment of sequelae of affections or traumas (the recovery function), thus directly intervening in raising the sanguogenic standard of the population, that is, improving the quality of the social environment as a pathological factor, the influence of the dwelling and of the work conditions, urbanization and pollution phenomena. This discipline also deals with the correction of deviations from the normal morphological or functional behaviour with old people (the corrective function).



FROM SPORTS MEDICINE TO MEDICINE FOR EVERYONE

At the same time, by making a thorough analysis of methanological and biological aspects of sports training, this discipline also aims at improving the functional capacity through adequate adaptation to the stress represented by the psycho-physical effort, ensuring a scientific support able to help obtain great sports performances. Naturally, throughout six decades of existence of the International Federation of Sports Medicine, various tendencies have been manifested, some of them being oriented towards the physician, others with the pathophysiology of effort and recovery, others with the physiological or biomechanical analysis of the physical effort. This is not the place to go into details, yet we shall mention that from the confrontation with time and relying on the effort accrued so far, leading the way to the future, to account the rich information of a state-of-the-art field, such as aerospace medicine, sports medicine seems to be ahead of the medicine for everyone from the scientific point of view, a fact which can be explained by taking into consideration the record-breaking "mirages", the leap of biological performances in sports medicine, as well as the intensive research made in almost all the disciplines known to have preoccupation in this field. We can already speak about the generalization of conclusions, facts, etc., and about a number of the biological benefits obtained in professional sports at the level of a wider population. We can speak about the adaptation to environmental factors, nutrition-metabolism, recovery after effort, etc.

Another object of the Romanian sports medicine is the definition of the functional state and of the effort capacity. The two notions which biometeorologists begin to find their place in the exact definition of the health condition. Indeed, it is hard to admit today that a healthy person can have a low capacity of effort (aerobic, for a long period, or anaerobic, taking a few

seconds) or that he has an insatiable, non-economic, unbalanced functional state. As a matter of fact recent studies have established a close correlation between the effort capacity and longevity, the main question arising at cardio-vascular function and time (in instance the Ringer test) or indirect tests, assessing the maximum aerobic power (the organism's capacity to resist effort, taking four, five or more minutes), should be introduced in the current medical practice, the same as healthy people, but especially old ones, should be advised to use the Astrand or Cooper tests which, though supertificial, are very useful in assessing a person's health condition.

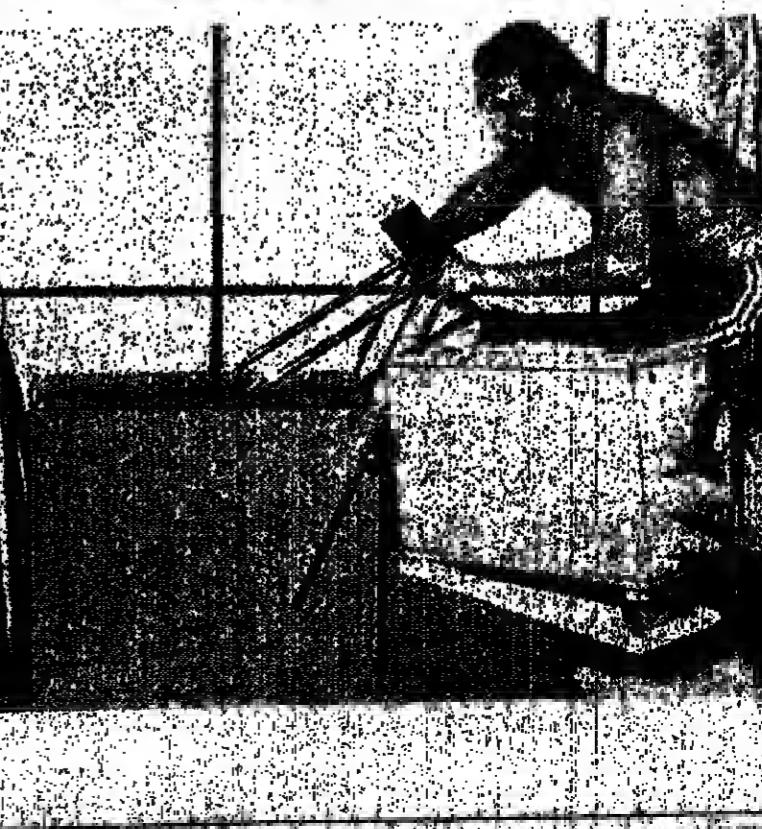
EFFORT CAPACITY STUDIES



EFFORT CAPACITY STUDIES

Physical activities are usually carried out in the open. From this point of view the sports efficiency is influenced by the environment, underlined as a macro- or micro-environment. The organization of sports competitions in variable environmental conditions from the sea level to altitudes of three or four thousand metres — has determined sports medicine to undertake biometeorological research on branches of performance in order to establish the effect of these factors on the competitive performance, biological, medical and the adaptability mechanisms. The studies made in Romania on the occasion of the Olympics held in Mexico provided extremely useful know-how for high performance sports events, but also certain conclusions concerning the bello-macchio and mountainous areas for being people or people suffering from neglected affections.

For instance, now we know that the non-aerobic exercise, which is a stimulating elinotoxin and, consequently, it has to be avoided by sportsmen during competitive seasons, that will



As far as the person suffering from physical disabilities are concerned, especially young people with sequelae after pulmonary affections, they should opt for a "biological doping" of three or four weeks in a hilly area. On the contrary, the exercisers of rheumatic diseases or of rheumatic sequelae will have to avoid average altitudes where the elinotoxin is more harmful.

These are firm conclusions obtained through a minute research carried out by the Romanian Centre of Sports Medicine and which have preceded the prospects for the preservation of the population's health.

Associate Professor Doctor IOAN DRAGAN ■

Director of the Centre of Sports Medicine in Bucharest

Images from the consulting rooms of the sports medicine centre in Bucharest. Besides researches into sports performances, doctors provide physical recovery and correction treatments for morphological and functional disorders

HIPPOCRATES IN A BOTANICAL GARDEN

At the beginning of this century, an experimental centre was being set up at Cluj-Napoca. The object of research — the medicinal herbs. This moment in Romanians' scientific work is still spoken about today in the specialist literature. Some 40 years ago, part of the team of these times moved to Tîrgu Mureş, a town where the specialised study of medicinal herbs was organized within the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy. This moment too is marked in the international scientific literature. At that time, bases were laid for gardens of medicinal herbs and aromatic plants, one of the few of this kind in Europe and one of the biggest as far as the number of cultivated and pro-

duce their superior qualities as compared to those derived through chemical synthesis. The Romanian specialists got ahead of these proceedings.

The interdisciplinary teams from the Pharmacy Faculty in Tîrgu Mureş have focused, in a first stage of activity, on selecting and systematizing species with high therapeutic properties. Then they began lab studies and tests. At present, after ample research, aimed at obtaining useful drugs with excellent actions in fighting diseases of the central nervous system, certain fungal infections, certain intestinal infections, certain professors and students of this faculty are the authors of over 70 drugs based on medicinal herbs. These drugs are produced in the lab of the faculty and in a botanical lab of the pharmaceutical network in Tîrgu Mureş, which is also a centre of application research in the industry.

It goes without saying that in order to develop these researches and at the same time to increase the quantity of medicinal herbs, the Tîrgu Mureş specialists, as well as production bases, besides the botanical gardens, many other areas organized within specialized farms. The medicinal herbs are industrially processed in a pilot station, and will be processed now by a modern drug factory that has recently come into operation in Tîrgu Mureş.

MARIAN CONSTANTINESCU ■
Photo: V. MOLDOVAN ■



served species is concerned. In this town, there is also a "previously" used library, and a plants' catalogue has been issued in Latin for a quarter of a century. Most of the plants are autochthonous and characteristic of Romania's hilly regions, a geographical area very rich in spontaneous flora. The "library" also contains some of the most famous, from the American, Asian and African continent. This is the outcome of ample scientific exchanges with specialists of over 100 botanical gardens in 70 world countries. Thus, on an area of several hectares, visitors can admire exotic plants side by side with autochthonous medicinal herbs.

The library is the educational and research base of the Pharmacognosy Department of the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in the locality. What is the purpose of this activity? To bring out more and more new plant-based drugs. Dr. Gabriel Racă, Chairman of the Research Committee for Medicinal Herbs within the Romanian Academy and head of the Pharmacognosy Department says that a trend of returning to a medical science and therapy closer to nature was initiated in the world a few years ago. A series of drugs based on natural raw materials



THE SHEPHERD DOG OF THE CARPATHIANS

There are many proofs of the oldness of the autochthonous shepherd dog. Nevertheless the shepherd dog of the Carpathians was but recently included among the standard breeds in the world.

Today, the two autochthonous shepherd dog breeds have been acknowledged: Carpathian and Mioritic. Carpathian is a massive, large size animal, used by the Romanian shepherds in defending the flock. Caim, equilibrated, but fearsome in case of attack, it can reach a weight of

even 80 kg., being able of fighting against both bears and wolves. Mioritic resembles Carpathian in size, courage and impulsive appearance, but it has two different elements: it is rich for droplets of saps.

The autochthonous shepherd is confined to the northern part of Moldova, where it continues to be a main occupation. Ten years ago, a wonderful shepherd dog was discovered in a sheepfold on Bucegi mountain. Presented in 1978 in a cynology exhibition in Bucharest, Mioritic (that was the name of the dog) won "the most beautiful sheep-dog".

Shortly after that, in 1981, the first national cynology exhibition was organized in Rădăuți town. That was the event when the autochthonous shepherd dog breeds Mioritic and Carpathian were homologated and stabilized.

That was followed by the participation in specialized fairs and exhibitions where the Rădăuți sheep-dogs won the specialists and the public's appreciation. The number of breeds has reached today at the Rădăuți branch of the Cynology Association of Romania, becoming the representative institution and selector centre for shepherd dogs.

Its initiator, Gheorghe Crăciun, has also initiated a training course for sheep dogs: "if you prove" — he says — "that Mioritic and Carpathian are not only powerful and docile animals, but also intelligent and agile, like any other dog breeds".

ION BELDEANU ■
Photo: V. BOTANICU ■

Top and centre: Aspects from the Botanical Garden of Tîrgu Mureş; centre: Two new shepherd dog breeds: Mioritic and Carpathian.



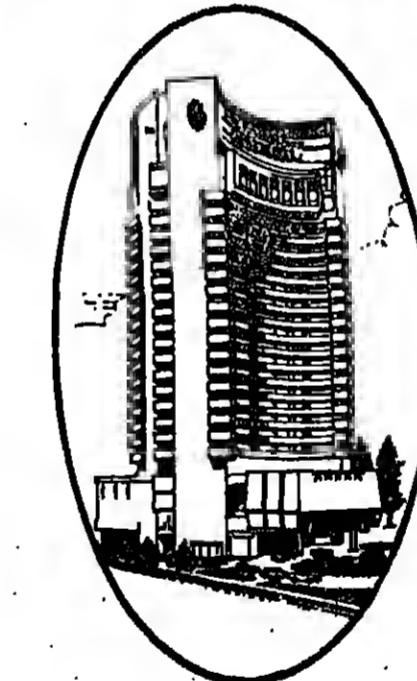
CONTEST FESTIVAL

Every two years, the capital of Olt county, Crăciun, hosts — and this has become a tradition — at the end of May, the "Maria Tîrnă" festival and contest of Romanian folk singing. Organized for the first time two decades ago, in the memory of the greatest Romanian folk music performer, Maria Tîrnă, the event has become a fertile framework for the discovery, assertion and conservation of interpretive values of folk music in all Romanian folk centres.

The recent, tenth, Jubilee edition, hosted between May 22 and 24, like the previous editions, a complex of events carried out in the same time: the "Folies" Fair in the whole Oltana area, a lecture session on the popularization of folk songs, a Romanian costume and dance party. At the same time, a series of artistic events, in which tens and tens of vocal and instrumental ensembles from the whole country as well as foreign interpreters of Romanian folk songs participated, took place in numerous Olt county towns.

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